(b) if so, the reasons for under-utilization of the said fund; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite implementation of the Ganga Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). Under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, utilization of funds, has largely been as per the budget estimates. There was some shortfall in utilization of funds during 1994-95 and 1995-96 because of delay in land acquisition and contractual problems. These impediments have since been overcome.

*[English]*

**Wildlife Conservation**

*166. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have seen report by the Environmental Investigative Agency, a UK based NGO, about the dismal performance and serious crisis in the India's wild life conservation efforts particularly, the Project Tiger and Project Elephant; and

(b) if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The report is a critique on India' Wildlife Conservation efforts, with special reference to Project Tiger. No specific mention has been made about Project Elephant. The various issues raised in the report are pertinent but some of them have been highly exaggerated and not based on facts. The report, however, has not dealt adequately with international market forces which is the root cause of decline of tiger population all over the world including India and how to overcome such forces outside India. The report also completely ignores the positive aspects and achievements of the Wildlife Conservation effort over the years in the country. The shortcomings highlighted in the report are already receiving attention of Government.

*[Translation]*

**Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Bihar**

*167. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras in several districts of Bihar is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the names of districts where Krishi Vigyan Kendras are proposed to be set up;

(c) whether locations for the same have been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds proposed to be provided to the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following districts in Bihar are under consideration alongwith other districts in the country.

1. Araria
2. Aurangabad
3. Bhagalpur
4. East Champaran
5. Santhal Pargana (Dumka)
6. Kishanganj
7. Lohardaga
8. Palamau
9. Purnea
10. Vaishali
11. Muzaffarpur
12. East Singhbhoomi
13. Rohtas
14. Daltanganj

(c) and (d). The locations of the centre are identified when the additional funds are allocated to the Council by the Planning Commission.

(e) The funds are released directly to the host Institution identified for implementing the Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

*[English]*

**Involvement of Foreign Intelligence Agencies with Extremists**

*168. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the involvement of ISI, CIA and other foreign intelligence agencies with the extremists of the North-Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to check foreign intelligence agencies?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) The Government are aware of the involvement of Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan and Directorate General of Field Intelligence (DGFI) of Bangladesh with extremists of the North-